

meal should be of minimum 450 calories with 12 grams of protein. State Governments prepare menus keeping in view the above nutritional value.

(b) States serving eggs in Mid-Day meal have been advised to introduce substitute items like dairy products, fruits (such as bananas) for children who are not accustomed to eat eggs.

(e) Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported in incident of the death of a child in an upper primary school in Adilabad district on 06.02.07. The State Government has informed that the bore well in the school was under repair. The child swallowed the egg, developed breathing problem and expired within an hour. The State Government has reported that the death was apparently due to asphyxia. A post mortem has been conducted, but the report is awaited. The State Government has also informed that all steps have been taken to ensure that drinking water is made available in every school to every child before commencement of serving of mid day meals.

Foreign investment in education field

3388. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any policy decision to attract the foreign investment in educational field;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal for foreign investment in educational field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (b) By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February, 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector subject to sectoral rules/regulations as may be applicable. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) already has regulations in place for the entry and operation by the Foreign Educational Institutions in the education field falling within the purview of AICTE.

(c) and (d) According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion 38 Indian companies have received FDI inflows in education sector during

the period from April, 2004 to December, 2006. According to the All India Council for Technical Education, three Indian institutions have been approved by them for foreign collaboration programmes. Some proposals from Indian Education Providers for collaboration with Foreign Universities/Institutions to impart technical education in India leading to award of Diploma, Degree including Post Graduate Degrees are being processed by them.

Achievement of IGNOU Objectives

3389. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that IGNOU was established by an Act of Parliament to provide access to higher education to all sections of the society especially the disadvantaged groups, women and people living in backward and hilly areas and promote distance learning;

(b) if so, the discipline-wise details of students in women in rural, hilly and urban areas;

(c) how far IGNOU has been successful in achieving these objectives; and

(d) what innovations have been introduced by his Ministry in distance education in a fast changing world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discipline-wise and category-wise fresh enrolment of students in IGNOU for 2006-07 is given in the Statement, (See below)

(c) and (d) IGNOU has been making conscious efforts to reach out to the disadvantaged groups in remote and rural areas. The University has set up Regional Centres and Study Centres in the areas of higher concentration of SC/ST communities and those with low female literacy rate. The University has also developed academic programmes beneficial for the disadvantaged groups. During the year 2006-2007, 35% of the fresh students enrolled in IGNOU were women and 25% were from SC/ST communities. The University accorded priority to the expansion of its educational activities in the North-Eastern region, which largely comprises hilly areas. About 185 learner Support Centres covering 8 Regional Centres were established in North-Eastern Region, as a result, IGNOU observed 30% increase in the enrolment of students in the region.